Claims

[c1] 1. An extension pole including a pair of telescopically interfitted inner and outer pole sections, with the outer pole section including a base and the inner pole section reciprocal within and relative to the outer pole section, the improvement which comprises a resilient, shock-absorbing component located within said outer pole section and proximal to said base, said inner pole section engageable with said component upon retraction of the inner pole section relative to the outer pole section, said component operable to safely absorb impact loads incident to unrestrained retraction of said inner pole section.

[c2] 2. The pole of claim 1, said component comprising a resilient, synthetic resin pad located adjacent said base and presenting an engagement face.

[c3] 3. The pole of claim 2, said inner pole section directly engageable with said pad engagement face.

[c4] 4. The pole of claim 2, including a rigid backing plate adjacent the face of said pad remote from said engagement face.

[c5] 5. The pole of claim 4, including a metallic end plug secured to said backing plate.

[c6] 6. An extension pole comprising an elongated pole section having one end thereof adapted for supporting any one of a

number of fixtures, said one end including an outwardly projecting tool supporting and securing element, and a threadably mounted locking member disposed about said element, said member operable for engaging the end of a fixture supported on and secured to said element.

[c7] 7. The pole of claim 6, said element comprising an elongated threaded body, said member comprising an annular ferrule threadably supported by said pole section and movable relative to said body.

[c8] 8. The pole of claim 7, said ferrule presenting an outermost annular face, said annular face configured for directly abutting and engaging the proximal end of a fixture supported by and secured to said element.

[c9] 9. The pole of claim 6, said pole comprising a pair of telescopically interfitted pole sections, said fixture-supporting pole section being shiftable relative to an outer pole section.

[c10] 10. The pole of claim 9, including locking mechanism operable for securing said fixture-supporting pole section at any one of a number of positions relative to said outer pole section.

[c11] 11. An extension pole, comprising:

an elongated, tubular outer pole section;

an elongated inner pole section telescopically received within said outer pole section and shiftable relative

thereto; and

a locking mechanism for locking said inner pole section at any one of the number of different positions relative to said outer pole section,

said locking mechanism including –

an elongated, tubular collet cam disposed about and operatively coupled with said outer pole section and having a pair of axially projecting, resilient locking segments, each of said segments having an elongated, axially extending connection portion and having an unrestrained, axially extending margin remote from said connection portion, each of said segment margins being radially displaceable relative to the corresponding connection portion; and

a chuck shiftably secured to said outer pole section and adjacent said collet cam, said chuck upon shifting thereof operable to inwardly displace said segment margins in order to lock said inner pole section relative to said outer pole section.

[c12] 12. The pole of claim 11, each of said segments having, along the width thereof between said connection portion and said margin, a region of increased thickness, said chuck rotationally mounted to said outer pole section and having surfaces adjacent

said segments for engaging said regions and camming the segments into frictional locking engagement with said inner pole section.

[c13] 13. The pole of claim 11, each of said segments being arcuate in cross section and presenting an inner surface having a radius of curvature with a central axis, the central axes of said inner surfaces being offset from one another.

[c14] 14. The pole of claim 11, each of said segments having an outermost arcuate edge, there being a cut line in each segment axially spaced from the corresponding edge and generally parallel thereto.

[c15] 15. The pole of claim 11, said cam including an inwardly extending stop extending through said outer pole section.

[c16] 16. The pole of claim 11, said chuck and collet cam cooperatively configured for locking said inner tubular section relative to said outer tubular section by rotation of said chuck through an angle of less than about 45°.

[c17] 17. An extension pole, comprising:

an elongated, tubular outer pole section;

an elongated inner pole section telescopically received within said outer pole section and shiftable relative thereto; and

a locking mechanism for locking said inner pole section

at any one of the number of different positions relative to said outer pole section,

said locking mechanism including –

an elongated, tubular collet cam disposed about and operatively coupled with said outer pole section and having a pair of resilient locking segments, each of said segments having a region of increased thickness; and

a chuck shiftably secured to said outer pole section and adjacent said collet cam, said chuck upon shifting thereof operable to displace said segments in order to lock said inner pole section relative to said outer pole section, said chuck rotationally mounted to said outer pole section and having surfaces adjacent said segments for engaging said regions and camming the segments into frictional locking engagement with said inner pole section.

[c18] 18. The pole of claim 17, each of said segments being arcuate in cross section and presenting an inner surface having a radius of curvature with a central axis, the central axes of said inner surfaces being offset from one another.

[c19] 19. The pole of claim 17, each of said segments having an outermost arcuate edge, there being a cut line in each segment

axially spaced from the corresponding edge and generally parallel thereto, whereby each of the segments is supported by an elongated, axially extending connection portion, and each segment having an unrestrained, axially extending margin remote from said connection portion.

[c20] 20. The pole of claim 17, said cam including an inwardly extending stop extending through said outer pole section.

[c21] 21. The pole of claim 17, said chuck and collet cam cooperatively configured for locking said inner tubular section relative to said outer tubular section by rotation of said chuck through an angle of less than about 45°.